A BOOK OF PRAYERS

(Based on the Antiochean tradition)

Collected by

JOHN MADEY

Edited by

C. A. ABRAHAM

Ex Libris

George bar Anton d'beth Kiraz

1994

"Let us pray and implore 'the Lord"

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With the blessing and
approval of

† **Lawrence Mar Ephrem**
Auxiliary Bishop,
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Introduction

During the last few decades, a considerable number of the members of both the Syrian and Malankara Churches have emigrated to English-speaking countries. Their descendants often find it hard to grasp the language of their ancestors, be it Syriac, Arabic or Malayalam. A book of prayers in English suitable for their use has been a felt need. This book is an attempt to meet that need. We have tried here to present a small treasury of prayers culled from the tradition of the Syrian Church of Antioch, which is the spiritual mother of several Churches that no longer have the appellation "Syrian" or Syriac" added to their names.

This book is meant for the private prayer of the faithful, alone or in the family. The first prayer book of this kind, in English, was The Golden Key to Divine Worship by Mar Severios Ephrem Barsoum, Archbishop of Syria and Lebanon and Later Patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox Church. This had appeared in 1951 and is now out of print. The Golden Key has influenced this compiliation in some measure, although the selection and the order of texts here are in some ways different.

This book consists of prayers and devotions which trace their origin to the Syrian Church of Antioch. The Communion Prayers given in the appendix, however, have been taken from different Eastern liturgies. Oriental liturgies are now usually grouped under the Alexandrian and Antiochean families. The Coptic and the Ethiopian liturgies belong to the first and all the others to the second. It should be noted, however, that the Antiochean tradition, particularly the Anaphoras, had a shaping influence over the Coptic and Ethiopian liturgies. This is why it was considered proper to add in this collection a few prayers from the Coptic liturgy of St. Basil the Great and the Byzantine liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

May this book of prayers be a help and a source of blessing to all those who use it.

3 July 1986. John Madey

THE BEGINNING OF PRYER (Kaumo)

The worshipper begins his prayers always with

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God. Glory to him and upon us, weak and sinful men be mercy and compassion for ever. Amen.

And he continues:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, heaven and earth are full of your praises. Glory in the highest. Blessed is he who has come and will come in the name of the Lord. Glory in the highest.

Holy are you, O God,
Holy are you, the strong,
Holy are you, the deathless,
Who were crucified for us,
Have mercy on us,

(three times)

O Lord, have mercy on us;
O Lord, have compassion and mercy on us;
O Lord accept our worship and our prayer and have mercy on us,

Glory to you, O God,
Glory to you, O Creator,
Glory to you, Christ-King,
Who have compassion on your sinful servants.

Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day the bread we need and forgive us our sins and offences as we have forgiven those who have offended against us. Do no let us enter into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Angelic salutation

Peace be to you, Virgin Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Mary, Virgin Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and always and at the hour of our death. Amen.

II

Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things, visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, who was begotten of the Father before all worlds. Light of light, true God of true God, begotten and not made, being of one substance with the father; through whom all things were made.Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven + and took flesh by the Holy Spirit from the holy virgin Mary, Mother of God, and became man. + He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and he suffered, + died and was buried. And he rose again on the third day according to his will and ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of his Father. And he will come again in great glory to judge the living and the dead. And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the one living Holy Spirit who is Lord and Giver of life to all, who proceeds from the Father and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the Prophets and the Apostles.

And in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We confess one baptism for the remission of sins and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the new life in the world to come. Amen.

III

PRAYERS FOR EVERYDAY

On arising

O Lord, who do not sleep, awaken me from the sleep of in that I may worship you. O living one, who are the deathless aise me from the slumber of death that I may thank you for our mercy and make myself worthy to praise you in the glo-ious assembly of your saints. O Father, Son and Holy spirit, ours is the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Another prayer

Creator of the morning, who scatter the drarkness and ring light and joy to the creation, create in us habits of virtue nd scatter the darkness of sin; give us light and joy by the glorious rays of your grace, O Lord our God, for ever. Amen.

(Common Prayer, West Syrian rite)

A Short morning prayer by Antun of Tagrit (9th cent.)

O Lord, grant us that we may have on this day a good ompanionship and hear tidings of peace; that our words be ure and our works pleasing to you, free from frivolity. Grant us to be sober in thought, holy in utterance and righteous in our judgements. Grant us, O Lord, health of the body, suf-icient food for the same, enlightenment of mind, and quick un-derstanding. O Lord, deliver us from evil desires and from he evil one; in like manner from all the oppressors and from ebellious unbelievers. Make us holy in your love and fear, n word as well as in deed, till we truly become sons of the ight. Amen.

Another morning prayer

Enlighten, Lord, the eyes of our minds by the light of your glory, that while we walk in it, we may turn aside from the paths and snares of the enemy. Strengthen our hearts in you, commandments and our hands in the doing of good. Direct O Lord God, our walking according to your word and our thought

to meditation on you;keep our lips and our tongues by your help for the vioice of your praise;establish the truth of your teaching in us and deliver us from every kind of sin, for in you is our hope and on you we call, our Lord and our God, for ever.Amen.

(West syrian Common Prayer)

Before work

O Lord, bless me, my work and my undertakings on this day. Grant them,O Lord, to be successful, pleasing to you and giving glory to your holy name. Bless me, O Lord, out of your abundance according to my necessities. Blessed be your name for your goodness who make the sun shine upon the evil and the good. Amen.

A prayer to the Holy Spirit

Heavenly King, Consoler, the Spirit of truth, present in all places and filling all things, the treasury of blessings and the giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O Good one. Amen.

Before study

O God, fountain of truth, source of all wisdom, shed a little of your light on the darkness of my mind, putting to flight the gloom of ignorance and sin. Let me enjoy abundantly your wisdom and knowledge, O Lord, and grow in the culture of the mind. Grant me quickness of understanding and enlightenment of mind. In like manner, O Lord of wisdom, give me freedom of utterance, for you are the Master of the wise and grant me the gift of understanding. Yours be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Meal Prayers (Short form)

Before meals

O Lord, bless this table which you have prepared for your servants out of your great goodness. Pour on it your blessing and your goodness which know no changing nor any turning. Like wise prepare us, O Lord, to sit at that table above where you sit in glory. Amen.

After meals

Blessed be God for his goodness. Blessed be our creator for his loving kindness. Blessed be the Father of all for his abundant mercy. To him, our God, in whom we live, be glory because of his graciousness, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Longer form) *At noon time*

Before the meal

PRESIDENT : Our Father in heaven,

All; holy be your name.... (p.1)-Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Barekhmor (=Bless, O Lord).

PRESIDENT : Christ, our God, bless+the eating and drinking of your servants, for you are the Holy one,now and always and for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

After the meal

PRESIDENT: Christ,our God,who have nourished us out of the abundance of your gifts, leave us not outside your heavenly kingdom, but, as you appeared to your disciples and gave them the peace, so come also to us and save us. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison, Barekhmor.

PRESIDENT : Blessed be+God who has pity on us and has nourished us in his goodness and love for mankind out of the abundance of his gifts, now and always and for ever and ever

ALL:Amen.

In he evening

Before the meal

PRESIDENT : The poor eat

ALL: and will be filled and those who search him, they will praise the Lord. May their hearts live for ever. Glory be to the

Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Barekhmor.

PRESIDENT : O Christ, our God, bless + the eating and drinking of your servants, for you are the Holy one, now and always and for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

After the meal

PRESIDENT : Glory to the Father

ALL : and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever, Amen. Your womb was the holy table which bore the heavenly bread, Christ, our God, who is the supporter of all. O Mother of the Lord, higher in honour than the Cherubim and more glorious than the Seraphim; you gave birth to God the word in virginity. You are truly Mother of God: you do we exalt.

You have made us rejoice, O Lord, by your deeds, and we exalt you for the works of your hands. Your face is flashed up above us. You have put the joy into our hearts while others have become rich of wheat, wine, and oil. So I lie down, take rest and sleep. Because it is you, O Lord, who have sheltered me in confidence. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Barekhmor.

PRESIDENT : With us + is God in his grace and love for mankind now and always and for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

(He who presides over the meal, draws a cross over the table when so indicated)

Before Reading the Holy Scripture

Divine Comforter and Advocate, Spirit of Truth, treasury of goodness and fountain of life, you distribute the gifts and give the talents from above. Come, dwell in us, and cleanse us through and through, o Lord. Create a clean heart in us and renew a right spirit within us: the spirit of temperance and purity, of righteousness and true holiness, the spirit of wisdom

and understanding, so also the spirit of strength and firm purposes, the spirit of knowledge and fear of God. Be with us, be our guide and leader who strengthens and helps us at all times. O Spirit of holiness, full of mercy and goodness, grant our tears to flow and to purify our hearts. Establish your dwelling in us. Touch our hearts with the fire of your love, O God,and refresh and revive us in all good works, that we may live in you for ever and ever. Amen.

Before reading from the Gospels

by Mar Philoxenos of Mabug (+ 523)

O Lord, grant me knowledge that I may understand the saving words of your Son, the Christ. Take away from my mind the veil of all evil desires and make your light shine into my heart, that, with the eye of the soul, I may behold and see the mysteries of your holy Gospel. Teach me, O Lord, to have true faith in you and to keep your commandments, that I may bring forth fruit which is well-pleasing to you. Let me bring to you at last the talent which will command your blessed approbation. For the sake of your name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

By Antun of Tagrit

O Lord, I seek your face, I, the greatest sinner. Save me from crooked paths and shield me from the darkness of Satan and his host who flee the light of the day. Grant me to see, in my mind, the evening of my days and save me from the pit of ignorance and sin. Equally let me contemplate the sunset of the world and rebeuke myself for all its transgressions. In the end, may all evil desires have departed from me and I may be worthy to dwell in the land of the light and life and there join with all the saints in worshipping you, O most holy Trinity. Amen.

Other Evening prayers

Grant us, Lord God, that while our bodies rest from the labours of the day and our souls are released from worldly

thoughts, we may stand in your presence with tranquillity at this time of evening;and that we may offer you ceaseless praise and uninterrupted thanks-giving; that we may acknowledge your loving kindness by which you rule and direct our lives and protect and save our souls To you we offer praise and thanks-giving, now and always. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of your mercy against our faces. Lord, we confess we are sinners;have mercy on us. Your love made you descend from your place towards us so that our death may be destroyed by your death. Have mercy upon us.

Night prayer

O Lord, who do not sleep, I commend my spirit this night into your hands: keep me from all dangers seen and unseen. Send me your holy angel of peace and safety to guard me from the terrors of the night and all its fears. Save me from all vain dreams, all evil imaginations and fearful thoughts. May your glorious light shine in my heart while the natural darkness over-shadows me, and grant that I be worthy, in the midst of the night, to render you praise together with the glorious assembly of your angelic hosts who ever live to adore you. For ever and ever. Amen.

Another night prayer

Holy Father, preserve us by your holy name; Saviour Son protect us by your victorious Cross; Holy Spirit,make us worthy abodes for your indwelling. O Lord God, hide us under the shadow of the wings of your Godhead, now and always. Amen.

The Aaronic blessing

(Num - 6/24-26)

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit ourselves. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and for evermore. Amen.

IV
THANKSGIVING

Song of Mary

My soul magnifies the Lord, *and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Because he has looked upon the lowliness of his handmaid, * for behold from now on all generations shall call me blessed:
Because he who is mighty * has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is from generation to generation * on those who fear him.
He has who victory with his arm, * he has scattered the proud in the conceit or their hearts
He has put down the mighty from their thrones, * and has exalted the humble and meek.
He has filed the hungry with good things * and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has given help to his servant Israel *, mindful of his mercy.
Even as he spoke to our fathers * to Abraham and his seed for ever.

LK 1, 46-56

Song of Adolescents of Babylon

(An adaptation of Dan. 3, 52-90)

Thank the Lord, for he is good. Halleluia, Thank him. Halleluia.

CHOIR :	ALL:
All the works of the Lord	Praise the Lord
All you, Angels of the Lord	Praise the Lord
Sun and moon	Praise the Lord
All stars of the sky	Praise the Lord
Fire and heat of summer	Praise the Lord
Cold and winter	Praise the Lord
Dew and rain	Praise the Lord
Lightnings and clouds	Praise the Lord
Night and days	Praise the Lord

Thank the Lord, for he is good, Halleluia, Thank him. halleluia.

Nights and days	Praise the Lord
Light and dark	Praise the Lord
Mounts and hills	Praise the Lord
Seas and rivers	Praise the Lord
Whatever grows on earth	Praise the Lord
All you birds of the sky	Praise the Lord
All you wild and tame animals	Praise the Lord

Thank the Lord, for he is good. **Halleluia,Thank him. Halleluia.**

All of you men	Praise the Lord
Nations and races	Praise the Lord
Women and men	Praise the Lord
Young and old	Praise the Lord
Poor and rich	Praise the Lord
All you Christians	Praise the Lord
Healthy and sick	Praise the Lord
All that is breathing	Praise the Lord

Thank the Lord, for he is good. Halleluia, Thank him, halleluia.

* * *

Hymn of the Angels

As the heavenly angels and archangels on high sing praises, so the weak and sinful children on earth sing praises and say:

At all times and at all season's glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and tranquillity and good hope for the children of men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we raise a hymn of praise to you.

We give you thanks because of your great glory, Lord our Creator, king of heaven, God the Father Almighty.

Lord God, only Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son and Word of the Father, who take away or rather have taken away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

You who take away or rather have taken away the sins of the world, incline your ear to us and receive our prayers; you who sit in glory at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Because you alone are holy; Lord Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Praise of Christ and the Holy Trinity.

We exalt in your resurrection by which we were raised from the fall, and joyously we say: Christ, remember us when you come. Praise, honour aud worship and great glory may we be worthy to offer to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Glory be to the Father who sent his Son for our salvation, worship to the Son who died on the cross and gave life to us all; praise to the Spirit who began and completed the mystery of salvation; Holy Trinity, exalted above all, have mercy on us. Amen.

V

DEVOTION TO THE SUFFERING LORD

A meditation on his passion

O Jesus Christ, Son of God, only-begotten and incarnate God, who were crucified in the garden and whose sweat fell down to the earth like drops of blood, make my prayers to join with yours, let them become acceptable to your eternal Father that I may obtain mercy.

O Lord, you were seized in Gethsemane and bound: bind my heart with your love. You were made to stand before Ananias and Caiaphas, and Pilate: make me fit to stand before your throne and look on you in your majesty. You were stripped of your garments and cruelly scourged: strip from me the deeds of evil and save me from the scourging of hell which my sins would bring upon me, O Lord. You were crowned with thorns, whose sharpness pierced your noble brow: plant your love into my heart. You were made to don the cloak of shame and ignominy: let not the world the flesh and the devil put me to shame in like manner, O Lord. You met the sharness of death in the third hour: deliver me from the death that my sin would meet out to me as my reward. You bore the cross: give me the grace to bear your blessed yoke and follow you. In the sixth hour you were nailed to the tree: fix your sweet love in my heart and your fear in my flesh. In the ninth hour you died in the body and gave life to the dead: make me rise from among the dead in sin. You went down into the depths of the grave saving those who awaited your coming there: deliver me from the depths of evil-doing. Save me who long after you, as the hart pants after the brooks of water. Give me your power that I may pray, as it seems good to you, with your Father and with your Holy Spirit. So I shall have your forgiveness and mercy, O Lord. Amen.

My Lord Jesus, bridegroom of my joy and my delight, my treasure and precious soul, lover of my heart, you are my jewel, my paradise and my tree of life. You are the joy of my heart,

e crown of my brow, my pride, my strong weapon and my ield of victory. You are my refuge, my goal and my end. You e my teacher and guide, you ate my shepherd who orders my e. You are my portion and my end, you are all my richness. ake me worthy to bear your yoke and carry your burden which light, that I may follow after you, O may beloved, in the ay of the cross unto the end. Grant me to long after you ith my whole heart and to serve you in all sincerity. Woe to e, for I want to be your disciple and yet there is no goodness me.

Lord, my soul and my flesh are both instruments of evil noughts and deeds. Order me according to your will and make ne worthy to become truly your disciple, saved by your grace nd trusting alone in you. O Jesus, through you I possess all oy glory and happiness, and without you I would be dead in- eed and of all men the most miserable.

Do not leave me, o Saviovr, and do not withdraw from my eart. Let me not live without you, because you are my great ood and my only joy; without you I have nothing. Be near to me and within me at all times, o Lord, that I may have my eing in you now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of Compassion

By Mar Isaiah of Gaza (+491)

O Lord Jesus Christ, show me your mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ, grant me your compassion in my distress.

O Lord Jesus Christ, forgive all my transgressions.

O Lord Jesus Christ, make all evil desires and impurity of thought flee from me.

O Lord Jesus Christ, make me one of your faithful servants.

O Lord Jesus Christ, lead me to the haven of life.

O Lord Jesus Christ, my Beloved, increase my faith, streng then me in trust and hope, and fortify my heart in love.

O my beloved Lord Jesus, adorn my soul with temperance, humility and patience, my mind with knowledge, wisdom and instruction.

O Jesus, my Beloved, fill me with love to you and to my neighbour.

This I ask for the sake of her whom you chose to be your holy mother, and of all the holy fathers of old. Amen.

VI

DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

A litany to Our Lady

Hail, holy Mary, Mother of God!

(When said in common, this could be said after each of the following invocations)

Hail to you, shrine of all the mysteries and chosen vessel,

Hail to you, glorious sun, effulgent moon,

Hail to you, who alone among women heard the heavenly greeting,

Hail to you, whose virtue was a fragrant flower and whose star shone at every hour,

Hail to you, lamp of divine light, treasure of the Kord of hosts,

Hail to you fount from which sprang the mystery of priesthood

Hail to you, who opened to us the gate of Paradise above,

Hail to you, o sun whose light shines to all worlds,

Hail to you, o first of the saints,

Hail to you, o pride of Christians everywhere, crown of the believers,

Hail to you, o vessel riding the seas, heven of peace,

Hail to you, through whom the Divine Word became man,

Hail to you, whom Moses behold In the burning bush which was not consumed,

Hail to you whom the prophets of old foretold as the noblest of all mankind,

Hail to you, ark of the Covenant, jar of Manna, locked door, rod of Aaron which broke forth in flower,

Hail to you, abode of the Godhead, highest throne,

Hail to you, from whom all virtues and all perfection fake their measure,

Hail to you, o spotless Virgin,

Hail to you, full of grace,

Hail to you, glassy throne on high,
Hail to you, who bore the maker of the world and gave nourishment to the Saviour of mankind,
Hail to you, whom no tongue can describe and whose praises even the masters of language cannot frame,
Hail to you, gate of salvation and mother of blessing,
Hail to you, who are above all the crowns we can offer you,
Hail to you, o fount of holiness,
Hail to you, whom all the nations of the earth shall call blessed.
Blessed are you, o heavenly tabernacle,
Blessed are you o fragrant paradise of virtue,
Blessed are you, o throne of the Lord of the worlds,
Blessed are you, o most blessed of all the saints,
Blessed are you, o fount of the mysteries in whom the King of the kings dwelt,
Blessed are you, whose name your blessed Son magnified in all the quarters of the world.
Blessed are you, o second heaven where the sun of righteousness rose,

Which tongue can tell forth your praise, o Mother of blessing, o fount of joy, o blessed field, o measure of all human purity!

PRAYER

We beseech you, o Virgin Mother of God, to plead our cause before your beloved Son that he may forgive our sins and sanctify us by his grace O compassionate Mother, ask from him mercy, forgiveness and all grace for all of us who bless, praise and magnify you. You who never besought in vain, pray that he grant the world peace, the church victory, the sinners forgiveness, the sick healing, the distressed deliverance, and those who mourn, comfort.

O blessed Mother of God, be ever my advocate and mediator. I am your servant, even your son, returning to my Lord that he may bless me with forgiveness, pardon and grace. May I always serve him in true worship, that I may be found worthy to enter his glory in the court of the heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

A supplication

The mystery that was kept secret through ages and generations, was revealed to you, o measure of all purity, when Gabriel, the archangel, came to you saying: "Peace be to you, Virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women" (Mt 1, 28).

Hail to you, o field which was not sown with the seeds of procreation,

Hail to you, o bush which was blazed without being consumed,

Hail to you, o depth which is difficult for human sight to perceive,

Hail to you, o bridge leading to heaven and ladder lifting up to the highest which was seen by Jacob,

Hail to you, through whom the imprecation of old was brought to nought.

Hail to you, through whom Adam who had fallen into sin, was lifted up.

The Lord is with you.

O you who are the pride of the faithful, make petition for us to your only-begotten Son who sprang forth from you that he may have mercy on us.

Blessed are you, o heavenly tabernacle

[Continue as on p. 16. After the prayer, say:]

Let us cry and say three times: Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

O Christ, our Lord and creator, have mercy on us through the intercession of your Mother in our behalf. Grant us freedom from the deception of the devil and deliver us from his wicked powers. We are your servants and to you we commit ourselves, asking for your mercies, because we have no other Redeemer than you. Forgive us our trespasses and those of our faithful departed.

Angelic salutation

(see p. 2)

Song of Mary

(see p. 9)

A Sedro prayer

While praising and glorifying, with hymns, the blessed ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of God, we ask her to petition her divine Son. O Lord, through the prayers of your Mother, keep away from earth and all its inhabitants the scourge of wrath; eliminate all its dangers and disturbances. Protect us from war, captivity, famine and plague. Have compassion on our weaknesses, comfort our sick, help the poor and deliver the oppressed. Enable us to lead holy lives. Give rest to the faithfu departed and grant us a happy death that we may glorify you, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

or

O blessed Mother of God, lowly Virgin who received the lofty One, dwelling place of the Godhead, temple of the Creator, tabernacle of the Word, chamber of the heavenly bridegroom, announcer of peace to our race, you are the glory and pride of all the faithful. From the earliest times, you were depicted symbolically by the prophets of old. You are the ark of Noah, the offering of Melchisedech, the field of Issac, the ladder of Jacob, the vessel of manna and the rock of Samuel. All the generations on earth call you blessed and exalt the one

who appeared from you. Into your hands we entrust our prayers and petitions-Place them at the feet of the Child of our hope, your Son of compassion. May we have cause to celebrate throughout life's pilgrimage, and may the joy of his holy birth sustain us on our journey. To him are due glory and honour, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O holy Mother of God, (on this day of your memory) we offer our prayers to your Son. Ask him to watch over his Church and all her children. May her clergy serve with reverence and sincerity, and may all who dwell within her know mercy and compassion. And we will glorify and thank him, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

or

We exalt you, Virgin Mother of God, fleece that absorbed the dew of heaven, blessed field of grain that satisfies the hunger of creation. You are the holy mountain from which the rock was hewn, without human hands. The generations of heaven and earth join to say: Blessed are you, ark of mysteries. Blessed are you, altar of the First Fruit. Blessed are you, fertile valley. Blessed are you, joy of motherhood.

We petition you, O Christ, through the prayers of your holy Mother. Renew the face of the earth which you created out of love for us. Where there is death and decay, restore life; where there is famine and suffering, bring relief; where the earth is parched and unyielding, provide rain. Bless the fields with grain, the fruit trees with blossoms and the bushes with new growth. Restore the work of your hands, so that earth and all that is on it, may worship you, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

THE MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION OR PENANCE

Preparation

Qolo

O Lord, I knock at your door and I ask for mercies from your treasury. I am a constant sinner who have turned aside from your way. Help me to confess my sins and to depart from them and to live in your grace. At what door shall I knock, if not at yours, O compassionate Lord ? Who is there who will plead for our transgressions, if your mercy does not plead for them, O King whom the kings of the earth worship ?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be to us a high wall and a house of refuge from the evil one and his powers who are fighting against us. Protect us under the wings of your mercy, when the good will be separated from the wicked, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Eqbo

I have sinned against you, O Lord, who have pity on sinners. Receive my supplication and forgive my transgressions. Lord of all, have mercy on me.

or

O Lord, God almighty, who forgive the sins of men and do not take pleasure in the death of sinners, to you, O Lord, I stretch out my hands and lift up my heart and from you I beg the pardon of all my faults. Though I am not worthy, I beseech you to preserve me from all the attacks of the enemy; my eyes that they do not look incontinently; my ears from listening to vain things and my hands from doing evil things; that my inner being may be moved by you so that I may entirely be yours and the gift of your sacred mysteries may be bestowed on me, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Adoration to the compassionate Father.
Adoration to the merciful Son.
Adoration to the living Spirit, the giver of life to all.

Repentance

O only-begotten Son of God, I look to you for the abun-ance of your mercies. Many are my sins, O Lord, and I cannot umber my transgressions. May my tears cleanse me O Lord. May my enemies not triumph over me. Rather may the angels ejoice over one sinner who repents.

O Lord, I am sick and I do not know where to turn for ealing I went to the physicians and they gave me their medi-ine. But my sickness continued to grow, and nobody is able o heal it. I heard them say, O Lord, that your remedy is sure nd that all who approach you are renewed. In my great need, have come to you. Heal me and forgive me.

When I think of my sins, I am ashamed to call on you. Yet, he publican and the thief on Calvary, the Canaanite woman, he woman of Samaria and all the transgressors have made me dare to approach you. So I have come to you to ask your for-giveness.

O my God, woe to me a sinner ! For you will judge without respect of persons. May I not be put to shame on the day of judgment, O Lord, but find mercy with you.

Because I have trusted in you and have had faith in your name, I have loved you and have knelt before your living cross. And I have been sanctified by your most holy flesh and blood, O Lord, Lord of lords who are above all corruption. Now I have nothing to offer you except my tears. They are more precious to you than pure gold and precious stones. Accept them, and grant me your forgiveness, O Lord, my hope. I knock at the door of your mercy in trust and hope and with deep longing. I beseech you that you reward me out of the abundance of your mercy and compassion. Help me, O Lord, and do not cast me away.

I lift my voice to you, O Lord, my God. Do not drive me away from your presence. Behold, I grieve for my sins and do not hide them. I confess them before you. Open the door of your mercy to me, as you have always done to those having a contrite heart. Receive my repentance as you received that of the publican. Forgive my transgressions, as you forgave your servant Peter.

Or

O my God, my soul is sick, suffering from the leprosy of sin. You alone can heal it. My tongue is unable to offer you due praises. Set it free in thanksgiving, O Lord. My inner eye does not see the light of the truth. O Lord, let me regain my sight. O God, which door should we approach if not yours which is the gateway of mercy and compassion. You alone are our advocate, O our King. You are the power before whom kings and princes bow their knees worshipping you. O God, nobody needs to tell me of my sins. My iniquities are numerous. And if your righteousness would draw the sword of vengence, O Lord, whom will I have then to plead my cause before you ? Your goodness alone is my defence, Lord.

O God, of all your servants, I am the most disobedient. Nobody has been less loyal to you than I, O Lord, nor less cognizant of your goodness. Surely, my days are short, and death is knocking on my door. There is no refuge for me other than your mercy. You are having all the riches, O Lord, and the needy stand before your gates. Open your treasure-house and satisfy their longings, O Lord, according to your sure promises. O God, I am longing for your forgiveness and your word of pardon with all my heart. I am thirsting after your mercy. O abundance of mercy, pour out the flood of your loving kindness on me. O fountain of good, O ocean of love whose bounds cannot be measured, O open gate of mercy for sinners, O haven of life, accept my sorrow for my sins and blot them out, O Lord, healing my soul with love. Sanctify me and let me put on the sword of the Spirit and of love, that I may triumph over the enemy of my soul. Teach me, O Lord, the ways of your commandments and lead me on the paths of righteousness,

ıt I may walk therein and live, for your name's sake, now d always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Or:

Have mercy upon me, O Father almighty. We praise and ess you. Humbly kneeling do we worship you asking to show your great mercy. O Christ, fountain of mercy, show me ur compassion on the day of judgment, as you did on the oss to the thief, as you did also to the publican and the oman taken in sin. Amen.

Before confession

O God, you do not wish the death of the sinner, but that he pent and live: I confess before you that I have sinned in the ce of heaven and in your sight, although I have enjoyed your eat goodness. By this ungratefulness, I have fallen from the ate of sons and am no longer worthy to be called a son of our grace. Make me, O Father, as one of the hired servants ut in your mery, blot out my faults. Cleanse me from my sin. merciful Father, turn your face from my sins and do not look n my transgressions. Do not cast me away from your face, O racious Lord. Do not rebuke me in your anger, but listen to e voice of my sorrow, O Lord, and look on my tears.May they urify me in your sight, O God, because I repent most humbly nd am heartily sorry for all that I have done wrong. Moreover have determined not to return to the hateful paths of sin gain. Receive my confession and help me in your mercy and race to live a life which brings glory and praise, to you for ver and ever. Amen.

During the confession of sins

Before the priest

I confess to God, the almighty Father, and to his beloved Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, in the presence of our Lady Mary who is ever-sacred in her virginity, and of all he angels, of the chief of the angels Michael and Gabriel, of St. John the Baptist, of the holy chiefs of the Apostles, Peter

and Paul, of the twenty-four prophets, of the Twelve Apostles, of the four evangelists and of the seventy-two who were sent forth.

I confess the holy Faith of the ecumenical councils and my faith in the most noble priesthood which is given to you, Father (= Priest) and by which you are entitled to loosen and to bind.

I have sinned with all my senses, inwardly and outwardly in word, deed, and thought. My sin is great, and I repent it most sincerely purposing not to fall into it again, preferring even death rather than embrace sin. And I ask you who are vested with the authority of the sacred priesthood, to absolve and forgive me asking God to pardon me in his grace. Amen.

After Confession

O Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician and fount of mercy, behold me now in your presence, the blind waiting to receive sight within from you, to be healed from all my sickness and to be made rich in my poverty. I believe that you have accepted my confession and are pleased to acknowledge my suppliance; that you have forgiven me and made me clean from my sin. I always will render you thanks, O Lord, and your praise is on my lips at all times, according to the multitude of your loving kindnesses. I implore you, in your grace, to confirm me in my purpose and promise that I shall never return to sin; grant me to rriumph over all my temptations, that I may love you alone on earth, and my spirit may be exalted in your praise until that day when I shall see you in your heaven above, for ever and ever. Amen.

VIII

THE CHURCH

O Head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, you are supremely the object of all adoration and our heavenly bridegroom. You founded her on the firm rock of faith and promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against her: Extend her sway to the uttermost parts of the earth that your glorious Gospel of peace and joy may be spread everywhere through her action. Be with her to the end according to your promise and grant that faithful shepherds be everywhere her adornment. Save her from the power of hypocrites. Pour out your spirit on the people you have elected for yourself, O Lord, bless them and let them prosper in your grace. Let us have, for long years, the guidance of our supreme pontiff, our blessed Patrirach, our holy Archbishop (Metropolitan or Bishop) and all the bishops, granting them growth in holiness, knowledge and wisdom, that they may lead your flock to green pastures and guide them in holiness of life,until we all may come to worship you in the cour's of the heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.

Or

O almighty and eternal God, who, through Jesus Christ, have revealed your glory to all nations, we beseech you to preserve the works of your mercy: that the Church which is spread to all the quarters of the world may continue, with unchanging faith, in the confession of your holy name. You who alone are the Good and the Holy, we ask you to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal and sanctity of life our Holy Father, the supreme pontiff, our blessed Patriarch, our holy Archbishop (Metroplitan or Bishop) and all the other bishops, chorepiscopi, priests and deacons of the Church; especially those who are charged with exercising their holy ministry among us. And lead your people in the ways of salvation.

We pray you, O Lord, to give the secular authorities of the nations where your people live, wisdom and justice to rule them in peace. May the light of your divine wisdom guide them in all kinds of dealings and activities.

We pray you that you grant your abundant mercy to all our brethren throughout the world who confess your holy name. Have a good memory also of the souls of our parents, relatives and friends, your servants, who departed from us. And may your love and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of us, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Mission and Evangelization

O God, you sent your only-begotten Son to be the forgiveness and guidance of the world. Through him you taught us the way of salvation and the paths of your kingdom. Lift high the banner of his Gospel in the four quarters of the world, bringing all nations under the yoke of your truth in Christ, sow the seed of truth into the good soil of all hearts, that the whole world may come to know you and believe that you are truly God, and that you are God alone, and that he, whom you sent, your beloved Son Jesus Christ, is to be worshipped with due fear together with you and your Holy Spirit. So may your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Communion of Saints

Blessed is he who elected you, and sanctified you Apostles, Martyrs and Saints whose memory is always blessed. You, physicians of the souls, stars of virtue, bastions of truth, custodians of the treasure of heaven, you have loved the Lord and those he has elected. Your sufferings have led to our salvation, for you have followed our Lord Christ. You ran the race set before you bringing glory to the name of your father in heaven. To you is reserved the crown of victory.

Beseech the Father who dwe in your hearts, the Son whose power abides in your spirit, and the Holy spirit, who grants you to wear crowns of joy in our behalf that we may follow in your path. Plead our cause that we may in turn lead the world to the truth, being always faith-ful to the Christ whom you have exalted.

For a holy end

Our end preserve sinless, O Lord, and gather us beneath the feet of your elect, when you will and where you will and as you will, only without shame by reason of our sins, that in this and in all things your all-honoured and blessed name will be glorified and magnified with the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and of your all-holy, good, praiseworthy and life-giving Spirit, of one substance with you now and for ever, Amen.

(Liturgy of St. James)

PRAYRES FOR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS

IX

For guiding way of life

St. Ephrem (+373)

O my beloved Jesus, be the guiding way of life to lead my feet to the Father. There is joy and delight in the heavenly kingdom. Your springs are full of gifts to men and your grace in the heart of your servant is light, joy and peace. It is sweeter than honey-comb and a treasure greater than anything else. Your grace is my refuge and strength, my triumph, my pride, my life and my crown of beauty. How will my tongue keep silence and not praise the delights of your love and joy? How can I abstain from your praise and from singing of your great mercy in psalms and hymns? Your thorns themselves draw me to you, O pride of my life, that I follow you. My heart becomes a good ground where you sow the seed of your kingdom, and your eternal dews fall upon it. At all times you reap there the fruit of contrition, worship and pure adoration and love. O my God, my soul is wandering. Guide it to the right paths and return it to the fold of your paradise in glory, so also other wandering sheep, and guide them with your own hands to your heavenly Father. There they will be numbered among the prudent virgins who do not cease to praise you and to magnify your Father and your Holy Spirit of life. O you whose loving kindness knows no end and whose grace does not know any change. O you, whose glory the mind of man cannot express nor human spirit can ever apprehend in its fulness, receive our prayers. Amen.

To the eternal Father

O heavenly Father, hear us, for we have none other to listen to our cry, and help us. In your goodness, you have created us from nothing. Let us not perish by your wrath.

Rather teach us your commandments, that we may please you by works of righteousness.

O God, O Lord Jesus Christ, imploring the blessed name of your holiness, we ask you to grant that our minds may be freed from earthly cares and from worldly lusts and may be preoccupied with your teachings and your commands coming down from heaven. O Lord make your grace perfect in us and make us strong that we may walk in the spirit of our vocation. Give us power over Satan and his hosts, O Lord. Illumine our minds with the light of your only begotten Son. O God, before you I pour out my petitions and supplications seeking your forgiveness, beseeching you to hear my voice. Do not forget me, O Lord, but send out the light of your truth that I be led to you. And grant me a portion in the land of the living.

Yes, I am crying to you out of my deep grief, O Lord, and am lifting up my voice from the tomb to which my sins have brought me. May my supplications reach to your holy temple, Lord God, refuge of all your servants. I am clinging to you. Protect me. Likewise let me arise from sloth and weariness of the flesh and the spirit, that I may awaken from the slumber of my indifference and withdraw from all iniquity. O Lord, do not judge us according to our sins. Take away from the world death and disease, the sword of our enemies and the yoke of the wicked, O Lord, and their heavy burden on mankind. Grant us to live our days in peace that we walk in righteousness and become worthy to stand in the ranks of the saints. This we ask in the name of your beloved Son who is worthy to be heard by you. O most merciful Father, have mercy on us. Amen.

For help

By Mar philoxenos of Mabbug (+523)

O God, I look for help to you and I take my refuge with you who created the heavens by your command. O Strong one O Forgiver, O end of all my hopes, object of all my worship,

consolation in all my loneliness. To you I always turn in prayer. I ask your forgiveness. Make the beginning of this day of mine auspicious, O Lord, and crown its end with success. Stretch out your veil above me and set my tongue free in your praise Be gracious to me, O Lord, and grant me the health of body. You certainly will do this to me, O Lord,because whenever you are called, you help. I lift up my prayer to you, O Lord, knowing that you will hear it and give, out of the abundance of your goodness, good success to me. Be blessed, O Lord, who know all the mysteries and who command the rain to fall on the righteous and the wicked alike. You hear the prayer of your servants and lend them your ear. You shower your blessing on us and satisfy all our needs.

Praise to the creator

Blessed be he whom the moon praises with its light.
Blessed be he whom even the darkness of the night sanctifies,
Blessed be he whose majesty is of his own making.
Blessed be he who alone is exalted and whose name alone is holy.

Blessed be he who commands all praise.

Blessed be the maker of the heavens without pillars.

Blessed be the most glorious, resplendent in light.

Blessed be he who alone is without partner: There is no God next to him.

Blessed be he who is sitting on the throne and whom no man has ever seen.

Blessed be he whom no tongue can describe and who knows no end.

Blessed be he who made Eden a dwelling-place for those who pleased him.

Blessed be he who made the fire the penatly of the disobedient.

Blessed be he who showed mercy on our father Jacob when he wept.

Blessed be he who showed mercy on Joseph in his distress and delivered him.

Blessed be he who raised Elias on high and avenged his cause.

Blessed be he who spoke to Moses on the mountian top and showed mercy on him.

Blessed be he who heard Jona's cry from out of the whale's belly and made him to live.

Blessed be he who showed mercy on Isaac redeeming him from the knife.

Blessed be he who forgave David in his iniquity.

Blessed be he who praised Job's patience and revealed his pleasure to him when he cried to him.

Blessed be he whom the heavens have praised.

Blessed be he whom the sun has magnified with its light.

Blessed be he whom the winds praise wherever they blow.

Blessed be he whom the clouds adore in their courses.

Blessed be he whom the thunderbolts magnify in their terror.

Blessed be he whom lightning and thunder praise.

Blessed be he whom the mountains praise and all that is within them.

Blessed be he whom the seas praise with their billows.

Blessed be he whom the birds praise in their nests and crannies.

Blessed be he whom the roses adorn with their fragrance and their sweet-smelling loveliness.

Blessed be he whom rivers and springs praise with their streams.

Blessed be he whom all created things magnify night and day.

Blessed be he whom earth and heaven adore.

For forgiveness

O God, you created us that we worship you, you taught us your holy name and instructed us to call to you. In your

mercy, your compassion, your goodness and loving kindness which cannot be measured, I adjure you, remove every pain and burden from me, o Lord. and do not remember the sins of my youth. This is my desire I present to you: Cast me all my days that I follow you and please you, o most merciful Father. You who receive the penitent, receive my prayer asking forgiveness, although I am slow to turn to you. Forgive me, O Lord and extend your forgiveness to my father and my mother and be not angry with them. Be merciful to them and to me in your abundant compassion. Forgive all those who have been baptized into your family, through the prayers of our Lady, the Mother of Light, and all saints and martyrs. Amen.

In times of trouble

O God, our help and assistance, you are just and merciful, and you hear the supplications of your people. Look down upon us, miserable sinners. Have mercy on us and deliver us from this trouble which is besetting us. We know that we are suffering it deservedly. We acknowledge and believe, O Lord, that all trials of this life are given for our chastisement by you, when we are going astray from you and are disobedient towards your commandments. Deal with us not according to our sins, but according to your abundant mercy, for we are the work of your hands and you know our weaknesses. Grant us, O Lord, I beseech you, your divine helping grace and endow us with patience and strength to endure our tribulations with perfect submission to your will. You know our misery and suffering. To you, our hope and refuge we flee for relief and comfort. We trust in your infinite love and compassion, that you will deliver us from this trouble and turn our distress into comfort at the time which you know best. Then we shall rejoice In your mercy exalting and praising your holy name, O Father, Son, and Holy spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

In temptation

We cry to you, O Lord, in times of distress. Keep away from us all pestilence. We cry to you, O Lord, for the evil one has led the whole world astray by this power. If it were in his

power, he also would deceive the elected ones. By your cross, O King of peace, protect us from his wiles. Amen.

Or

I cry to you in my trouble, O Lord, for Satan desires my destruction. O merciful father, have pity on me. O compassionate Son, have mercy on me. O Spirit of mercy, have compassion on me. O God, hasten to help me. Lay your hand on me and avenge my cause. Grant light to my eyes and to my soul, O Lord, and break the shafts of my temptation, for the sake of your great name. Amen.

Prayers of transgression

By Mar Ephrem

To you I address my prayer, O Christ, Saviour of the world, that you look on me in your mercy and deliver me from the multitude of my transgressions. From my youth on I have made light of all your loving kindnesses towards me. I was unlearned and without understanding, and you have filled me with wisdom and knowledge. Your goodness made my cup to flow over. You have satisfied my hunger and you have apeased my thirst. You have enlightened my understanding. May I not be deprived of all your grace on the day of judgment, O Lord. In that dreadful hour, O Lord, show me again your mercy. As the thief on the cross, make me to share your paradise, at your word, O Lord, cleanse all my iniquity so that, at my sight in the garden of your paradise, the enemy of my soul will recoil and withdraw from me. O Jesus, from whom all the saints derive their name, I am bold to speak out your name with my impure lips. I sigh to you and implore your refuge from Satan. Hear me, O Lord, and snatch me from the horrible pit in which men of iniquity dwell. Make me worthy to stand among your saints who rejoice seeing your beauty. O glory of the saints and their highest end, my tongue will speak sweet words in praising and thanking you. O Saviour of all who call on you with a pure heart, King of all the saints with many crowns of light and joy, hear my prayer. Amen.

Contrition of the soul

By Mar Ephrem

Most holy Lord, in contrition of my soul I have come before you to implore you, from the depths of my heart, and to ask your protection from the evil one, my enemy. Hasten to hear me, for, if I were to be cast from you, I should perish in grief. And if you rebuked me, O Lord, my sorrow would overwhelm me. Save me in your mercy according to what your servant and Apostle Paul has taught us about your compassion. O my God, I know that my sinful nature is prone to provoke your anger. You have shown me your mercy knowing my estate. I know very well that your patience which is without end, has borne with me as a father bears with his children. As a mother does not turn away from her child who has grieved her and their eyes flow in tears of compassion for all who draw near asking her help, how much more will the tears of your compassion be shed for all and know no end. Give me to drink of your mercy, O you who rejoice at the tears of those who do penance. Will you not heal also me of my deseases in your loving kindness and your gracious wisdcm ?

O divine Lamb, who were slain for the salvation of the world, purify me with the blood of your forgiveness. O Lord, I fall incessantly and get sick. It is always your grace which heals me-without payment and price. Behold me now crying to you and beseeching you to protect me from my enemy. Blessed be you, O Lord, your servants cry who have been blessed themselves by your power and mercy. Glory be to you for ever and ever. Amen.

For the sick

Holy Father in heaven, physician of our souls and our bodies, you have sent your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal all ailments and infirmities and to deliver us from our bondage. Visit and heal your servants (or your servant N.) granting them (or him/her) release from pain and

restoration of health and strength that they (or he/she) and we may render thanks and praise to you and bless your holy name, O Father, with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen

O Christ, our Lord and Saviour, we know that you are our defender. Grant to visit and heal, in your compassion, your suffering servants (*or* this suffering servant) delivering them (*or* him/her) from sickness and pains. Raise them (*or* him / her that they (*or* he/she) and we may sing to you and praise you incessantly. Amen.

O Holy Spirit, our protector and help, come down and dwell on your faithful servants (*or* this your faithful servant) and heal them (*or* him/her) from all the trials and tribulations. Amen.

O Holy Trinity, bless these suffering children (*or* this ailing servant) and all their dear ones. Keep them in your tender care and love, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

On a birthday

O Father in heaven, Lord of all, you love mankind and are most merciful and full of compassion. Have mercy on your servant N. for whom we pray to you and whom we recommend to your gracious care and protection. O God, be his (*or* her) guide and protector in all his (*or* her endeavours. Lead him (*or* her) on the paths of your truth and draw him (*or* her) nearer to you that he (*or* she) may live a pious and righteous life in your love and fear. May he (*or* she) do your will in all things. Give him (*or* her) the grace to be temperate, industrious, diligent, devout and charitable. Defend him (*or* her) against the attacks of the enemy and grant him (*or* her) wisdom and strength to resist all temptations and corruptions of the present world. Guide him (*or* her) on the way of salvation through the merits of your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the assistance of your Holy Spirit, giver of life.

O Father in heaven, we praise you and thank you for all the blessings which you have showered on this your servant from the days of his (*or* her) birth. Lead and guide him (*or* her) on your paths on all the days of his (*or* her) life.Help him (*or* her) in all kinds of temptation and save him (*or* her) from all sorts of calamities. We particularly implore you, O Lord, our Saviour, on this remembrance of his (*or* her) birthday, that the light of your face may be shown upon your servant and that the cross of your only-begotten Son may be graven in his (*or* her) heart and in his (*or* her) thoughts and may he (*or* she) grow more and more in your faith. Amen.

For a school beginner

O Lord, our God Saviour and Creator, you have honoured us with your own image. You have taught your elected ones so that those who give heed to your teaching are the wisest. You have revealed wisdom to little children. You have imparted your teaching to Solomon and to all who have sought your wisdom. Open the heart, the mind and the lips of your servant (*Parents could say*: of our child) N. that he (*or* she) may receive the power of your law and understand the knowledge which will be taught to him (*or* her), to the glory of your holy name, to the gain and edification of your holy Church, and that he (*or* she) may understand your good and perfect will. Deliver him (*or* her) from every hostile oppression. Preserve him (*or* her) in the orthodox catholic faith and in holiness on all the days of his (*or* her) life. Let him (*or* her) increase in wisdom and in the fulfilment of your commandments. Being thus prepared, he (*or* she) may glorify your all-holy name and become an heir of your Kingdom. For you are our God, mighty in mercy and gracious in force, and to you is due glory and worship, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

At a betrothal

O Christ, our Lord, true bridegroom espoused to the holy Church, bless your servants who address their prayers to you with unceasing grace, unfailing help, unimpaired communion and perfect fear of God. Sanctify them, O Lord, with the love you have for mankind. Grant them days of prosperity. Enable them who wear the crown to please you and each other. May they have children born in their wedded life who will fulfil your divine will. O Lord, keep your hands upon them. Preserve them by your cross and protect them from all evil. Let them and us, throughout our lives, render you adoration, honour, praise and thanksgiving, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and ever. Amen.

Before a journey

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, you are the true way of life. Be, O Saviour, my companion, my guide, my guardian during this journey. Deliver and protect me from all dangers, misfortunes and temptations which I may meet with. Defend me by your power. Grant me a peaceful and successful journey and let me arrive safely at my destination. O Master, send me a guardian angel that he guide, protect and deliver me from all assaults of visible and invisible enemies. He may direct me to the fulfillment of your commandments and preserve me in peace, happiness and health. He also may bring me back in safety and tranquillity. Grant me, O Lord, our God, that I may fulfil all my good intentions to your good pleasure, to your greater glory. O Lord Jesus Christ, be with me everywhere and in whatever I do. I praise you and thank you for all your blessings you have showered on me. As you went with your disciples, be also with me and lead and guide me in everything I am going to undertake. This I ask through the prayers of our holy Fathers, especially of Mar (St.).. ..., my heavenly patron, and of our Lady, the ever-virgin Mary, mother of God. Praise and glory be to you, O Saviovr, with your eternal Father and your life-giving Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

For the departed

By Antun of Tagrit

Most Merciful Lord, we beseech you to forgive the shortcomings of our ancestors and brethren who have departed. Do not remember their sins. We ask you not to retire them to the last place of the righteous ones. They partook of you through water and Spirit and kept the holy sacrifice. Let them rather stand in the first ranks of the saints on the day of your judgment. We ask this by your mercy, O Father, by the compassion of your son and of your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

or

Remember, O Lord, our departed brothers and sisters, our teachers and ancestors and all the faithful departed: O Lord, let not our departed ones be subject to the powers of darkness. Deliver them from the domination of evil spirits and protect them from torments and afflictions, May the light of your only-begotten Son shine upon us and upon them. Through him we hope to find mercy and forgiveness of sins for his sake, both for them and for ourselves.

O God, pardon all our faults in thought, word and deed, for all that is secret and open are known to you. In the bounty of your mercy, O Lord,hear our supplication and deliver us and them from the judgment to come and from the torments awaiting the evil-doers. In this as in all things may your glorious and blessed name be praised and glorified together with that of our Lord Jesus Christ and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

or

Receive, Lord, the souls of your servants in tabernacles of light and make them to dwell in the harbour of blessedness; give them rest in the glorious bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that on the great day of your glorious manifestation we may stand with them at your right hand, and offer fitting praise to your and your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

(Common Prayer)

X

Appendix

THE HOLY QURBONO

Before Holy Communion (Preparation)

1 Holy holy, holy are you, God of hosts, Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. O God, your glory is higher than heaven and your splendour shines over the whole earth. I raise my eyes to you who are in heaven. As the eyes of the servants look to their lords and the eyes of the hand maids look to their mistress, so our eyes look to you for mercy. O Lord, have mercy on us. Have mercy on me, O Lord, in your goodness, and in your great mercy wipe away my sins. My soul hopes in you, and I take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Because man has trampled me, O Lord, deliver me from my enemies and all who raise against me. Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your kingdom.

2 You have united, O Lord, your divinity with our humanity and our humanity with your divinity, your life with our mortality and our mortality with your life. You have assumed what is ours, and you have given us what is yours for the life and salvation of our souls. To you be glory for ever. Amen.

3 Make me worthy, O Lord, to receive your sacred body and your precious blood. They will be my strength to avoid sin, to walk in the path of justice, and nourishment for eternal life. Amen.

Syro-Maronite Liturgy

4 Father of truth, behold you Son, a sacrifice and propitiation to you. Accept him who died for me that I may obtain pardon through him. Receive this sacrifice and be reconciled with me. Do not remember the sins I have committed against your majesty. Behold his blood shed on Golgotha by evil men pleads for me. Accept my petition because of it.

reat as my guilt is so also is your mercy. If you weigh them, your compassion will outweigh the mountains that are weighed by you. Look on the sins and look on the offering made for them. Far greater is the offering and the sacrifice than the guilt. Because I sinned, your beloved bore the nails and the spear. His sufferings are sufficient to appease you and by them will I live.

Glory to the Father who gave up his Son for our salvation, worship to the Son who died on the cross and gave life to us all, thanksgiving to the Spirit who both began and completed the mystery of our salvation.

Holy Trinity, high above all, have pity on us all.

Mar Jacob of Sarug (+521)

5 Make me worthy, O Lord, to eat of you in holiness. By eating your holy body may the evil desires be consumed and by drinking of your living chalice may the passions of my flesh be quenched and by you may I be found worthy of the pardon of offences and forgiveness of sins, our Lord and our God, for ever. Amen.

6 I believe, O Lord, and I profess that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God come to this world to save sinners, of whom I am the greatest. I believe also that this is your spotless body and that this is really your precious blood. Wherefore I pray to you: Have mercy on me and pardon my offenses, the deliberate and the indeliberate, those committed in word and in deed, whether knowingly or inadvertently; and count me worthy to share, without condemnation, your spotless mysteries for the remission of sins, and for eternal life. Amen.

Mar Ivanios(St. John Chrysostom) (+407)

7 Receive me now, O Son of God, as a participant in your mystical supper : For I will not betray your mystery to your enemies nor give you a kiss like Judas, but like the thief, I confess you : Remember me, Lord, in your kingdom.

8 O our God, remit, forgive, for give my transgressions by which I have sinned against you, knowingly or inadvertently, in word or in deed. Inyour goodness and love for mankind, hold me excused for all of them. Through the prayers of your all-pure and ever-virgin Mother Mary grant that I may partake, without condemnation, of your precious and spotless body, for the healing of my soul and body. For yours in the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the reception of your holy mysteries, O Lord, be for me not to judgment and condemnation, but to the healing of my soul and body. Amen.

Byzantine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

9 Amen. Amen. Amen. I believe. I believe. I believe and I confess till the last breath: This is the life-giving flesh which your only-begotten Son, our Lord, our God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ took from our Lady, the queen of us all, the holy and pure Mother of God Mary. He made it one with his divinity, without mingling, without confusion, without alteration. He confessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate. He gave it up for us on the wood of the holy cross, of his own free will, for us all. In very truth I believe that his divnity did not depart from his humanity, neither for an instant nor for the twinkling of an eye. Given for us unto salvation, remission of sins and eternal life for every one partaking of it. I believe. I believe. I believe that this is the very truth. Amen.

10 Make us all worthy, O our Lord, to partake of your holy body and of your precious blood to the sanctification of our souls, our bodies and our spirits, and to the forgiveness of sins and transgressions, that we may become one body and one spirit with you. Glory to you with your good Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

After Holy Communion (Thanksgiving)

1 I give thanks to you, O Lord and my God, for you have not rejected me a sinner, but have made me worthy to share in your sanctifying mysteries. I thank you for having granted that I, unworthy as I am, be a partaker of these pure and heavenly gifts. O Lord, lover of mankind, who died and are risen for us, who gave us these dreadful and life-giving mysteries for the good of our bodies and the sanctification of our souls, make them serve the healing of my soul and body that they may set to fight every foe. Enlighten the eyes of my heart. Give peace to the power ofmy mind. Inspire me with a faith in which there is no shame, a sincere love, a deep wisdom, and cbedience to your commandments. May they increase in me your divine grace, and make me dwell in your kingdom. Being preserved by them in your holiness, I will remember your love at all times, and from now on, I will not live for myself, but for you, my Lord and benefactcr. And thus having spent my earthly life in the hcpe of life without end, I will one day reach eternal rest where the sound and rejoicing never cease, where the delight of those who lcok on the beauty of your face has no bounds. For you are truly the object of our disire and the inexpressible joy of those who love you, Christ, our God, and all creatures glorify you for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Glory be to you. Glory be to you, our Lord and our God for ever and ever. Glory be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ. May your holy body from which we have eaten and your propitiatory blood of which we have drunken, be not for our judgment nor for our condemnation, but for our life and the salvation of all.

3 May the living fire of your body and precious blood, Christ our God, quench the flame of fire and keep the fierce and dreadful torments from my limbs, and from the souls and bodies of the faithful departed who were clothed in you by water and the Spirit and received your body and precious blood. Call them and make them stand at the last day on

your right side as you pr omised, our Lord and our God Praise be to you for ever and ever. Amen.

4 O God of our salvation, you became man for us and by the offering of your sacrifice you set us free. Deliver, us, O Lord, all from corruption and all evil, and make us temples dedicated to your holy name, for we are your people and your inheritance. And we will offer you praise and thanksgiving, to you and your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

5 O God save your people and bless your inheritance. We have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity who has saved us. Let our mouth be filled with your praise, O Lord, for you have counted us worthy to share your holy, immortal and spotless mysteries. Keep us in sanctification that we may sing your glory meditating on your holiness all the days. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

6 We thank you,Master, who love mankind,benefactor of our souls, for having today made us worthy of your heavenly and immortal mysteries. Make straight our paths. Establish us in your fear, guard our life, steady our footsteps, through the prayers and supplications of the glorious Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary and all your saints, for you are the sanctification and we send up glory to you, tothe Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

7 We thank you, almighty Father, you prepared for us your holy Church as a haven, a temple of holiness, where the name of the Holy Trinity is glorified. Alleluia.

We thank you, O Christ King; through your life-giving and holy body you granted us life. Give us forgiveness in your mercy. Alleluia.

We thank you, O Spirit of truth, you have renewed the holy Church. Keep her spotless through the faith in the Trinity, now and always and for ever and ever. Alleluia.

We thank you, O Christ our God, who have granted us the taste of your goodness to the holiness of life. Through it keep us holy and without blemish, dwelling in and about us in your divine providence Be our shepherd in the field of your holy and benevolent will. Through it may we be fortified against every opposition of the slanderer and made worthy to hear alone your voice and follow you, the only good and victorious and true shepherd and to receive from you the place prepared for us in the kingdom of heaven, O our God and Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who are blessed together with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

8 O You who graciously give me your flesh as food,you who are a fire consuming the unworthy, do not consume me, O my creator, but rather pass through all the parts of my body into all my joints, into my heart, into my soul Burn, O good Lord, the thorns of my transgressions. Purify my soul and cleanse my thoughts.Shelter and keep me alwaysin your love. Chasten me, purify me and control all my passions Adorn me, teach me, and enlighten me always. Show me how to be a dwelling-place of your holy Spirit and in no way one of sin, that from me, your habitation, because of the communion of your holy mysteries, every evil deed and passion may flee as from fire. I bring to you all the saints, especially your pure and all-holy Mother, to intercede for me,O my Christ and my God: Accept their prayers in my favour and make me, your child, to be a child of light. For you alone are the sanctification and the splendour of my soul, and to you, my God, my Master, I shall give glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.

9 See part IV 'Thanksgiving' (pp-8-9)

10 All-holy Lady, Mother of my God, Light of my poor soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my comfort and my joy: I thank you for having enabled me to be a partaker of the most pure body and most precious blood of your Son. Enlighten the eyes of my heart, you who carried the source of immortality. O most tender and loving Mother of the

merciful God, have mercy on me and grant me a repentant and contrite heart with humility in mind. Recall my thought from wandering into all kinds of distractions, and make me worthy always, even to my last breath, to receive the most pure mysteries of Christ for the healing of my soul and my body. Give me tears of repentance and thanksgiving, that I may chant and praise you all the days of my life, you who are ever blessed and glorified. Amen.

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